



Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

WT Docket No. 11-65

May 27, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) was the first nonprofit Distance Learning association in the United States to support Distance Learning research, development and praxis across the complete arena of education, training and communications.

In 1987, the USDLA was founded on the premise of creating a powerful alliance to meet the burgeoning education and training needs of learning communities via new concepts of the fusion of communication technologies with learning in broad multidiscipline applications.

The learning communities that USDLA addresses are: pre K-12, higher education, continuing education, corporate training, military and government training, home schooling and telemedicine. In addition USDLA is also focused on national and international technology based distance learning USDLA's mission is to meet the burgeoning education and training needs of learning communities via new concepts of the fusion of communication technologies with learning in broad multidiscipline applications. It is in furtherance of this mission that we offer our comments and support for the AT&T and T-Mobile merger, which will spread the most advanced 4G LTE wireless service to previously underserved communities.

This merger will transform the way educational content is delivered as mobile broadband will become vastly more powerful with the widespread introduction of 4G LTE wireless service. Not only will e-learners have instant access to information, but these e-learners will have the ability to collaborate in real-time.

Technology is the key to high quality distance learning. 4G LTE wireless technology has the power to connect students, teachers, and parents over vast distances instantaneously, allowing for real-time collaboration, instantaneous feedback, and active participation by parents and peers.

On a practical level the 4G LTE wireless technology that will become widespread as a result of the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will allow e-learners to conduct research, download homework assignments, participate in classroom forums, and access vital course materials.

Most importantly, the merger will cover an additional 55 million potential e-learners, providing rural residents with access to modern communications technology that will connect them to the world. This point cannot be understated – this merger between AT&T and T-Mobile has the unique ability to quickly reach parts of rural America that are currently underserved.

The technological compatibility of AT&T and T-Mobile's networks allows advanced mobile broadband technology to be deployed quickly. This speedy deployment of 4G LTE technology will benefit distance learners eager to pursue a new career path, study at the finest universities in the world, or reduce the time spent commuting back and forth to a far away school.

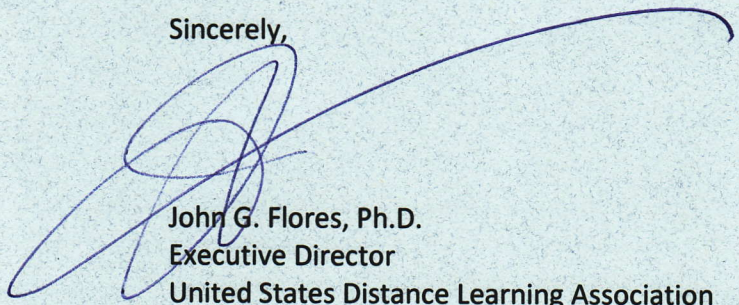
We support AT&T and its commitment to distance learning as the company offers solutions to enable large scale tablet and smartphone deployments for mobile distance learning programs. AT&T's commitment to distance learning is also evidenced by its offering of E-Learning Solutions, including AT&T Connect and AT&T Video Conference Service.

USDLA believes the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will ensure an additional 55 million Americans, and over 1 million square miles will receive access to mobile broadband technologies, connecting a larger population of potential distance learners to the benefits distance learning affords.

This merger will enable more Americans to realize the benefits of distance learning through wireless devices, mobile apps, and other related educational tools. The AT&T and T-Mobile merger promises to further the cause of the USDLA and help the organization accomplish its mission.

For all the foregoing reasons the USDLA encourages the Federal Communications Commission to approve this merger without delay. Those hungering for distance learning opportunities are eager to begin the next chapter.

Sincerely,



John G. Flores, Ph.D.
Executive Director

United States Distance Learning Association